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LETTER DATED 30 NOVEMBER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith enclosed a statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this statement as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Republic of Armenia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Statement dated 30 November 1993 on the Azerbaijani rejection of the CSCE Minsk Group peace plan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia deplores the Azerbaijani rejection of the CSCE Minsk Group peace plan and considers this rejection a major blow to the establishment of peace in the region.

By rejecting the latest peace plan offered by the nine countries of the CSCE Minsk Group, Azerbaijan is effectively reaffirming its policy to seek a military solution to the problem of Nagorny Karabakh. This action constitutes also a refusal by Azerbaijan to abide by Security Council resolution 884 (1993), which specifically demands that the parties to the conflict accept the Minsk Group "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) as amended by the CSCE Minsk Group Meeting in Vienna of 2 to 8 November 1993".

The CSCE Minsk Group proposal constituted a compromise peace plan that would provide for the establishment of a cease-fire, the withdrawal from occupied territories, the return of refugees and displaced persons, the end of the blockades and the opening of the Minsk Conference to find a negotiated solution to the political status of Nagorny Karabakh.

The compromise was reached after long and arduous negotiations over many months and had been endorsed by the nine countries of the Minsk Group: the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United States of America, France, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Belarus and Italy.

To see an end to the bloodshed and human suffering and in compliance with the demands of Security Council resolutions, Armenia accepted the peace plan on 22 November. Armenian authorities, and the President of the Republic personally, exerted all possible efforts to achieve an acceptance of the proposal by the leadership of Nagorny Karabakh. Nagorny Karabakh accepted, indeed, the peace plan despite the risks the plan represented to the security of its people.

Clearly, the Government of Azerbaijan remains the only obstacle to peace and to serious negotiations. By flouting the will of the international community and adopting an uncompromising position, Azerbaijan is only ensuring the continued suffering of the civilian population and creating extreme hardships for all peoples of the region.

The Azerbaijani failure to accept the Minsk Group plan can only reconfirm the worst fears regarding the intentions of the leadership of that State. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia cannot escape the conclusion that the military operations undertaken by Azerbaijan during the past two days on the south-eastern section of the Nagorny Karabakh-Azerbaijan front reflect the real policies of Azerbaijan, which now bears full responsibility for the continuation of the conflict and the human tragedy it engenders.